

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-09

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 AID-20

/090 W

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R 190930 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4560

INFO AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIBREVILLE 0225

3. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ECON, GB, UV

SUBJ: UPPER VOLTAN PRIME MINISTER VISITS GABON

1. UPPER VOLTAN PRIME MINISTER KANGO OUEDRAOGO
PAID OFFICIAL VISIT TO GABON 10-17 MARCH. HE
RECEIVED SOMEWHAT MORE THAN CUSTOMARY HONORS AND
HAD SEVERAL MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT BONGO.

2. PURPOSE OF VISIT AND TALKS, AS PROCLAIMED PUBLICLY
BY BONGO, WAS TO PAVE WAY FOR VOLTAN WORKERS TO
COME TO GABON; FINAL COMMUNIQUE STATED FORMAL
CONVENTION BEING PREPARED. FRENCH CONSEILLER
TECHNIQUE AT LIBREVILLE' S CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TOLD
EMBASSY THAT GABONESE RESPECT VOLTAN REPUTATION AS
HARD WORKERS, FEAR POTENTIAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS OF
INCREASING NUMBER OF NEIGHBORING CAMEROONIANS AND
CONGOLESE IN COUNTRY, BELIEVE DAHOMEANS TOO ORIENTED
TOWARD SMALL TIME TRADE AND POLITICS, AND FOUND
SENEGALESE TOO DEMANDING AND ARROGANT. BONGO HIM-
SELF PAID PUBLIC TRIBUTE TO " SERIOUSNESS AND
DYNAMISM" OF VOLTANS AND COMMENTED THAT HE BELIEVED
THAT WHEN IN GABON THEY " WOULD NOT ACT AS IF THEY
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WERE IN A CONQUERED COUNTRY, AS CERTAIN OTHER
AFRICAN BROTHERS HAVE."

3. THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH TRAINED GABONESE WORKERS
AVAILABLE FOR EVEN CURRENT LEVEL OF CONSTRUCTION
AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN COUNTRY. WHEN TRANS-
GABON RAILROAD CONSTRUCTION GETS GOING GABON WILL
NEED THOUSANDS OF FOREIGN WORKERS FROM SOMEWHERE.
LYNE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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